

SWEETGRASS DEVELOPMENT

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA – CASCADE, GLACIER, PONDERA, TETON AND TOOLE COUNTIES

April 4, 2011

TO: Chairman Dave Lewis and Members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee**RE: Opposition to HB140;
Transfer funds from the economic development special revenue account**

Sweetgrass Development is comprised of a five county region in North Central Montana including Glacier, Cascade, Pondera, Teton and Toole Counties. Sweetgrass Development is Certified Regional Development District through the state of Montana. The mission and objectives of the organization, is to assist the governments and citizens in each county and the Blackfeet Nation, achieve their economic goals while preserving their distinct cultures and way of life.

Sweetgrass Development adamantly opposes HB 140, the transfer of funds from the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF). As amended, this legislation will transfer 50% of the funds marked for Economic development to the General fund. The result of this diversion will be the elimination of six large scale workforce training projects and forty one planning projects. That is denying a project in almost every county in the state. In addition, it is eliminating the private matching funds that will be utilized on these projects as well as any additional income that is generated for the local and state coffers. Please review the attached documentation to identify the constituents in your areas that have benefited from these funds.

The Economic Impact Analysis conducted by the Census and Economic Information Center indicated that from July 1, 2005 to December 31, 2010, over \$4.8 million was awarded to Montana businesses. **This resulted in the leveraging of an additional \$617.4 million in project spending from local sources.**

Specifically, Sweetgrass Development opposes HB 140 for the following important reasons:

1. Big Sky Economic Development Trust Funds are vital to government entities, non-profits and private business' in the development stages of projects and training.
2. Funds leveraged through match, which includes many private sector partnerships, shall be lost. In the last five years, over **\$600 million** was generated through the program.
3. Job loss and slowing of development will be detrimental to future tax revenues within the state.
4. Transferring funding generated by the Coal Trust to the General Fund sets a dangerous precedent to balance the state's budget.
5. Projects already in progress will be placed on hold or never materialize as a result of this legislation. Many of these projects use the BSTF funds to leverage other federal dollars and those monies will be lost.

We urge you to please oppose HB 140. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Sarah Converse

Executive Director

Sweetgrass Development, Corporation

2006

Category I: Economic Development Projects

CDI Business Solutions – Aerospace

Jobs Created: 40

Leveraged Funds: \$1,542,492

BSTF Funds: \$200,000

Matching funds sources:

All matching funds were provided by CDI Business Solutions.

A \$200,000 grant was awarded to the City of Bozeman for the training of 40 new employees, mostly drafters and engineers for work on the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation contract at the new CDI Engineering Design Center in Bozeman. The jobs must pay at least \$13.90 per hour, excluding benefits.

DIRECTV Customer Services, Inc.

Jobs Created: 92

Leveraged Funds: \$20,055,000

BSTF Funds: \$460,000

A \$460,000 grant was awarded to Missoula County to assist in the lease reduction for the new DIRECTV (Satellite Digital TV provider) Customer Service Call Center facility. The program support will result in the creation of 92 net new jobs that pay over \$13.75 per hour, excluding benefits. The award will support the creation of over 950 total jobs at the DIRECTV project site over the next several years.

Summit Aeronautics Group

Jobs Created: 40

Leveraged Funds: \$21,800,000

BSTF Funds: \$200,000

A \$200,000 grant was awarded to the Helena Regional Airport Authority to support the expansion of Summit Aeronautics, an aerospace manufacturing company, by reducing a lease rate increase that resulted from the relocation of a gas pipeline. The award will assist in the creation of 40 net new jobs that pay at least \$15 per hour, excluding benefits.

Category II: Planning Grants

Safflower Technologies International, LLC \$10,000

Grant was awarded to Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of an analysis and report of the most efficient oilseed equipment, plan capabilities and infrastructure requirements for a specialty oilseed processing facility in Montana.

Tire Depot Feasibility Study \$ 5,700

Grant was awarded to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study to determine options for tire recycling operation to expand into other markets.

Growth Policy/BID Redevelopment Plan for Big Sandy \$15,000

Grant to Bear Paw Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Growth Policy and Central Business Redevelopment Plan for the Town of Big Sandy.

Missoula County Technology District Development \$50,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of the Technology District as well as coordinating activities related to the DIRECTV and Technology District projects in Missoula County.

Fiber Roll Manufacturing Feasibility Study \$ 9,500

Grant to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for a fiber roll manufacturing facility in Fergus County.

Beaverhead County Beef Feasibility \$19,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a feasibility study and business plan for a beef processing facility in Beaverhead County.

Fort Peck Tribes Update Economic & Social/Human Dev. Plan \$13,000

Grant to Great Northern Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Strategic Economic and Social/Human Development Plan for Fort Peck Tribes.

Sanjel USA - Site Study \$15,000

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Site Selection and Development Strategy that would support the expansion of oil and gas company Sanjel USA.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) \$15,000

Grant to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for a 6 County Region in Central Montana.

Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program \$15,000

Grant to Kalispell Chamber of Commerce to assist with the development and management of a pilot Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) program in Flathead County.

2007

Category I

SeaCast of Montana, LLC

Jobs Created: 60

Leveraged Funds: \$6,772,500

BSTF Funds: \$450,000

A \$450,000 grant was awarded to the consolidated city-county government of Butte-Silver Bow to assist with the transportation and relocation costs of equipment purchased by SeaCast of Montana, LLC that would be installed in the new facility in Butte. The 60 jobs created must pay at least \$14.60 per hour, excluding benefits.

St. Luke Community Hospital

Jobs Created: 25

Leveraged Funds: \$30,000,000

BSTF Funds: \$187,500

A \$187,500 grant was awarded to the City of Ronan to assist with the costs of infrastructure impacts the major hospital expansion had on the City. The 25 hospital jobs must pay at least \$12.40 per hour, excluding benefits. The award will support the creation of a total of 30 jobs over the next several years.

Ashley-Martin Manufacturing, LLC

Jobs Created: 6

Leveraged Funds: \$734,000

BSTF Funds: \$45,000

A \$45,000 grant to Lake County to support the hiring and training of 6 new employees to assist the expansion of a natural vitamin supplement company. The 6 new jobs must pay at least \$12.40 per hour, excluding benefits. The award will support the creation of a total of over 11 jobs at the project site over the next several years.

Cabela's Retail, Inc.

Jobs Created: 10

Leveraged Funds: \$16,960,000

BSTF Funds: \$50,000

A \$50,000 grant to the Big Sky Economic Development Authority, a Yellowstone County Port Authority, to support the non-construction costs of the expansion of specialty sporting goods retailer into Billings. The program support will result in the creation of 10 net new jobs that pay over \$15.43 per hour, excluding benefits. The award will support the creation of a total of over 53 full time and 90 part time jobs at the Cabela's project site over the next several years.

New Century Ag

Jobs Created: 5

Leveraged Funds: \$24,168,000

BSTF Funds: \$25,000

A \$25,000 grant to the Town of Westby for infrastructure improvements to support the expansion of New Century Ag's facility into a 100 loading car capacity grain elevator facility, creating 5 eligible jobs that pay at least \$10.63 per hour, excluding benefits and retaining 4 jobs that would have been otherwise lost.

Category II: Planning Grants**Grains of Montana Marketing & Business Plan \$26,250**

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a marketing and business plan for the expansion of Grains of Montana to include a mill/bakery/distribution facility planned for the south end of Billings to supply their current restaurant and the demand that will be created by future franchises.

Butte Aerotec Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) \$25,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist Montana Aerospace Development Association (MADA) with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to identify the facility needs and requirements for the proposed air-breathing engine and rocket operation test and evaluation center 10 miles west of Butte at the former Rhodia site.

Deer Lodge County Subdivision and Infrastructure Analysis \$50,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a subdivision engineering analysis of the former Anaconda Company lands – Mill Creek Industrial Area and East Anaconda Industrial Area – now under Deer Lodge County ownership.

Colstrip Elderly Care Feasibility Study \$20,000

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study of an assisted living center in Colstrip.

Data Center Target Industry Analysis \$10,000

Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation & sub-recipient Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA) to assist with the development of an updated Target Industry Analysis for Cascade County.

Wild Horse Port of Entry Economic Impact Analysis \$15,000

Grant to Bear Paw Development Corporation to assist with the development of an economic impact analysis of the proposed upgrade to the Wild Horse Port of Entry into Canada.

Regional Workforce Demand and Supply Assessment \$10,000

Grant to Montana Business Assistance Connection (Formerly Gateway EDC) to assist with the development of a regional workforce demand and supply assessment.

Montana Building Systems Business Plan \$25,000

Grant to Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a business plan for Montana Building Systems which proposes to construct a manufactured home facility that would create up to 180 jobs.

PAR for Cowboy Hall of Fame \$15,000

Grant to Great Northern Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the proposed Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) Feasibility Study \$25,000

Grant to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for selling CREBs as well as engineering activities related to producing and selling wind energy. Applicant later withdrew grant request.

North Central Montana Labor Market Survey \$15,000

Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Labor Market Survey to use in recruitment of primary sector businesses; address underemployment, out-migration and overall low wages in the region.

Boulder PER for Wastewater Expansion \$12,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to support the expansion of water & wastewater services to South Boulder for Molitor Trucking (15 new jobs) & BAS (7 new jobs) expansions.

Farm to Table Studies \$ 8,800

Grant to Eastern Plains RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with product and packaging development and the development of a marketing study for the Community GATE organization's Farm to Table project to help Montana producers to be able to directly market their products through a cooperative effort.

TerraEchos/S&K Electronics Manufacturing Plan \$22,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of a manufacturing plan for a new security system that would be manufactured by S&K Electronics and developed and sold by TerraEchos.

Bitterroot Ski Resort Economic Impact Study \$20,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of a study of the economic impact the proposed Bitterroot Resort near Lolo Pass would have on Ravalli and Missoula Counties.

Silicon Recycling Facility - Feasibility Study \$47,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a feasibility study, Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) & business plan for a new silicon recycling/processing plant in the Butte Industrial Park. Once completed an estimated 20-40 jobs could be created.

2008

Category I

Signal Peak Energy, LLC

Jobs Created: 191

Leveraged Funds: \$450,300,000

BSTF Funds: \$975,000 A \$975,000 grant was awarded to Musselshell County to assist Signal Peak Energy, LLC with the purchase of employee training-related equipment. The award will support the creation of 130 jobs that must pay at least \$11.90 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 191 jobs for the entire project.

Avmax Montana, Inc.

Jobs Created: 53

Leveraged Funds: \$8,933,864

BSTF Funds: \$265,000

A \$265,000 grant was awarded to the Great Falls International Airport Authority to purchase ventilation system equipment for a paint hanger to be leased to Avmax Montana, Inc., an aircraft maintenance company. The award will support the creation of 53 jobs that must pay at least \$14.20 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 74 jobs over the next several years.

Safflower Technologies International, LLC

Jobs Created: 5

Leveraged Funds: \$374,475

BSTF Funds: \$25,000

A \$25,000 grant was awarded to the City of Fairview for Safflower Technologies International, LLC, to use for the purchase of equipment associated with the expansion into a newly acquired seed crushing and processing facility. The award will support the creation of 5 jobs that must pay at least \$15.00 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 8 jobs over the next several years.

General Electric Capital Corporation

Jobs Created: 125

Leveraged Funds: \$19,211,750

BSTF Funds: \$625,000

A \$625,000 grant was awarded to Big Sky Economic Development Authority, a Yellowstone County Port Authority, to assist General Electric Capital Corporation's Commercial Finance Division with the purchase of employee training-related equipment. The award will support the creation of 125 jobs that must pay at least \$16.18 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of 200 jobs over the next several years.

Category II: Planning Grants

Whitehall Business Park Project \$25,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the Master Plan for the 200-acre Sunlight Business Park site.

Hysham Independent Living Project \$20,000

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for an independent living facility in Hysham.

N. Cheyenne Indian Reservation-Broadband Feasibility Study \$11,025

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study completed by Bresnan Communications to determine the best design and overall cost analysis to provide broadband services to the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

Crow Indian Reservation-Broadband Feasibility Study \$11,025

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a feasibility study completed by Bresnan Communications to determine the best design and overall cost analysis to provide broadband services to the Crow Indian Reservation.

Hardin Industrial Park Rail Feasibility Study \$26,250

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a comprehensive rail and rail facilities feasibility study for the Hardin Industrial Park.

Flathead County Underemployment Study \$13,000

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the development of a Labor Availability Study for Flathead County.

Eastern Montana Biomass Facility Feasibility Study \$ 13,125

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for establishing a wood shavings and/or a wood pellet mill.

Great Bear Innovation Park Master Plan PER \$21,420

Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Master Plan for the proposed Great Bear Innovation Park in Great Falls.

Conrad Industrial Park PER \$17,525

Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for extending water and wastewater facilities to the new proposed Industrial Park in Conrad.

Roosevelt County Tractor Museum Pre-feasibility Study \$ 4,995

Grant to Great Northern Development Corporation to assist with the development of a pre-feasibility study of the potential of developing a tractor museum from an extensive privately held John Deere tractor collection in Roosevelt County.

Madison County Fairgrounds PAR \$ 9,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the historic structures in the Madison County Fairgrounds in Twin Bridges.

Powder River County Radio Station PER \$ 9,000

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for a non-commercial radio station to provide emergency, service announcements, road and weather information for Powder River County.

Stoltze Lumber Co-Generation Feasibility Study \$90,000

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the development of a feasibility study for a biomass-fired heat and power co-generation facility at the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Co. site in Columbia Falls.

Mission Valley Renewable Energy, LLC Feasibility Study \$30,000

Grant to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for expanding a tire recycling operation in Polson, Montana into a renewable energy gasification plant.

Wood Products Industry Phase I \$ 5,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of a formal strategy and action plan by the proposed Wood Products Industry Council to address the short-term crisis in the Montana wood products industry.

Greater Downtown Missoula Master Plan \$25,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of Missoula's Greater Downtown Master Plan and Implementation Strategy addressing parking, retail, housing and employment strategies.

Target Industry Analysis \$25,000

Grant to Montana Business Assistance Connection to assist with the development of a Target Industry Analysis for Lewis & Clark, Broadwater and Meagher Counties.

Signal Peak Road PER \$25,000

Grant to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to assist Musselshell County with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), Bid Package and Specifications for road improvements required as a direct result of the development at the Bull Mountain Mine by Signal Peak Energy, LLC.

Wildfibre Advanced Product Testing Report \$25,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporations to assist Wildfibre, a Hamilton based company, with the development of an advanced product testing report to demonstrate the efficacy, reliability and impact-resistance of the company's concrete reinforcement product, allowing the company to market their product to a wider customer base.

Shooting Range Market and Feasibility Analysis \$16,000

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist the City of Kalispell with the development of a market and feasibility analysis report to support the firearm manufacturing industry cluster in Flathead County and law enforcement agencies throughout Northwest Montana. Applicant later withdrew grant request.

Beaverhead Beef PER \$13,500

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a site-specific Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), operations plan and economic analysis for a beef processing facility in Beaverhead County.

National Center for Health Care Informatics Business Plan \$25,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist non-profit organization with the development of a business plan for creating a healthcare modeling and simulation center that would work with the proposed Rocky Mountain Supercomputer facility in Butte.

Regional EMS PAR \$5,000

Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the new Glacier County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) facility and regional training center in Cut Bank.

Liberty County Senior Center PAR \$12,500

Grant to Bear Paw Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) to examine all available options for the Liberty County Senior Citizens Center, currently located in downtown Chester.

Montana Forest Products Industry Initiative \$25,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of an interim report and a final strategy and action plan to assist the Montana Forest Products Industry. Applicant later withdrew grant request.

Western Montana Forest Products Industry RLF Impact Study \$33,500

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development a Western Montana Forest Products Industry RLF Impact Study

2009

Category I

Bresnan Communications, LLC

Jobs Created: 119

Leveraged Funds: \$1,316,400

BSTF Funds: \$230,000

A \$230,000 grant was awarded to the Big Sky Economic Development Authority to assist Bresnan Communications, LLC with funding to reduce the lease costs associated with leasehold improvements made to the new Bresnan facility in Billings, Montana. The award will support the creation of 46 jobs that must pay at least \$17.18 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 119 jobs for the entire project.

Stinger Welding, Inc.

Jobs Created: 202

Leveraged Funds: \$9,500,068

BSTF Funds: \$529,000 A \$529,000 grant was awarded to Lincoln County to assist Stinger Welding, Inc. with the purchase of overhead cranes. The primary purpose of the facility will be to fabricate critical steel components and beams for new and existing bridges throughout the United States. The award will support the creation of over 71 jobs that must pay at least \$13.55 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 202 jobs for the entire project.

Category II: Planning Grants

Sonju Industrial's Expansion Plan \$21,000

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for Sonju Industrial's expansion project in Flathead County.

Montana Woodworks International Marketing Plan \$ 9,000

Grant to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the development of an export market research survey and international market entry information through the U.S. Export Assistance Center of Montana as well as a domestic market research report for the value-added pressed-log product line for Montana Woodworks, Inc. in Lincoln County.

Custer Trading Post Business Expansion Plan \$25,000

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the Custer Trading Post expansion plan in Crow Agency on the Crow Reservation.

Powell County Industrial Park Project \$15,500

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the proposed Industrial Park in Powell County.

Missoula Airport Authority Marketing Plan \$12,500

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of a marketing plan for the new air service related to the Missoula Airport Authority's Federal Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) Grant.

Smurfit-Stone Affected Companies Assistance Plan \$ 7,500

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation for assistance to the Montana companies affected by the bankruptcy of Smurfit-Stone Container.

BLACKHAWK! Manufacturing Montana \$26,250

Grant to Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for a new facility design for BLACKHAWK! Manufacturing Montana, a tactical gear manufacturer in the Gallatin Valley.

Lewistown Airport Business Park PAR/PER \$ 6,000

Grant to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Architectural and Engineering Report (PAR/PER) for the Lewistown Airport Business Park.

Sanjel Water PER \$12,600

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to extend the existing East Valley Water Line to service Sanjel USA in Miles City.

Algal Bioremediation Feasibility Study \$19,500

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a study to determine the feasibility of combining an algal bioremediation plan with the Miles City Water Treatment Plant or with a feedlot to develop a commercial product from the algae produced.

Missoula Expo Center Study \$20,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the completion of an Economic Impact Analysis and Feasibility Study regarding the proposed Expo Center in Missoula County.

WPIRS Revolving Loan Fund Management \$60,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the costs associated with administration of the MAEDC's WPIRS Intermediary Revolving Loan Fund for Montana's distressed wood products industry.

Jocko Valley Arts Strategic Plan \$10,500

Grant to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a strategic plan to establish the greater Jocko Valley as an arts and cultural destination.

A&S Diversified PAR \$16,150

Grant to Great Northern Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for modifications to the manufacturing facility of A&S Diversified, Inc. in Poplar on the Fort Peck Reservation to meet the demands of advanced manufacturing.

Great Bear Restoration Advanced Product Testing \$20,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to conduct advanced product testing on the integration of Great Bear Restoration's plant materials into the Biohaven Floating Island technology in Hamilton.

Montana Food Products, LLC Feasibility Study \$21,000

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to partially fund a feasibility study and business plan development for Montana Food Products, LLC in Lolo, MT.

Fort Belknap Reservation Broadband Feasibility Study \$11,025

Grant to Bear Paw Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a study to determine Fort Belknap Reservation's broadband capabilities and deficiencies for an accurate assessment of infrastructure capacity.

Great Falls Int'l Airport Authority Air Cargo & Intermodal Study \$25,000

Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to conduct a study defining freight flows via air, ground and rail systems in an effort to identify inland port/cargo gateway solutions to integrated carriers in Northern Montana.

Lowriders Gallery Historical Architectural Master Plan \$8,500

Grant to Beartooth Area RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a Historical Architectural Master Plan for use in renovating a historic downtown Laurel, MT, building to house Lowriders Gallery – a classic auto showroom and restoration business.

Unmanned Systems, Inc. Feasibility Study \$30,000

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the airport rental expenses associated with conducting a feasibility study for relocating Unmanned Systems, Inc. – an unmanned aerial vehicle training and testing company – to Columbia Falls, MT.

Native American Development Corp. PTAP Program \$36,000

Grant to Beartooth Area RC&D Area, Inc. to match federal grant funding for the implementation of the Native American Development Corporation's (NADC) American Indian Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) in Montana

2010

Category I

Falcon Asset Management Group

Jobs Created: 47

Leveraged Funds: \$705,000

BSTF Funds: \$235,000

A \$235,000 grant was awarded to the City of Hamilton to assist Falcon Asset Management Group with the purchase of employee training related equipment purchases. The award will support the creation of 47 jobs that must pay at least \$13.70 per hour over the next several years. It should be noted that this \$13.70 per hour wage threshold does not include the value of any employee benefits provided by the assisted business.

A&S Diversified, Inc.

Jobs Created: 18

Leveraged Funds: \$67,500

BSTF Funds: \$135,000

A \$135,000 grant was awarded to the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes to assist A&S Diversified with the purchase of equipment, software and sealing of the facility floor associated with the KODA Fiber Systems Joint Venture. It should be noted that this \$14.23 per hour wage threshold does not include the value of any employee benefits provided by the assisted business.

InterMedia Outdoors, Inc.

Jobs Created: 49

Leveraged Funds: \$1,511,350

BSTF Funds: \$367,500

A \$367,500 grant was awarded to the City of Missoula to assist InterMedia Outdoors, Inc. with the purchase of equipment and relocation costs associated with InterMedia Outdoors, Inc.'s potential consolidation in Montana. The award will support the creation of 49 net new jobs that pay at least \$16.08 per hour in Montana and retain the 36 jobs currently located there. It should be noted that this \$16.08 per hour wage threshold does not include the value of any employee benefits provided by the assisted business.

Goomzee Corporation

Jobs Created: 16

Leveraged Funds: \$125,000

BSTF Funds: \$120,000

A \$120,000 grant was awarded to the City of Missoula to assist the Goomzee Corporation, a high-tech company specializing in mobile marketing, with equipment purchases related to its expansion in Missoula. Goomzee has committed to the creation of at least 16 net new BSTF eligible positions that pay at least \$16.08 per hour over the next several years. It should be noted that this \$16.08 per hour wage threshold does not include the value of any employee benefits provided by the assisted business.

Category II: Planning Grants**Smurfit-Stone Frenchtown Mill Legal Work \$26,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a comprehensive report detailing direct and indirect consequences of the Frenchtown Pulp Mill Closure, which will include information from the bankruptcy court and the opinion of Legal Counsel regarding options for keeping the Frenchtown Pulp Mill in operation.

Northern Cheyenne Utilities Commission PAR \$16,000

Grant to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the Northern Cheyenne Utilities Commission (NCUC) in order to increase its facility capacity. The current plant is located in a 43 year old metal Quonset building. To better service the existing and projected staff and customers, NCUC proposes renovating a donated, structurally-sound building located in Lane Deer.

Lodgepole Store Feasibility Study \$16,000

Grant to the Fort Belknap Indian Community to assist with the completion of a study to determine the feasibility of opening a community store in Lodgepole, Montana on the Fort Belknap Reservation. The community store project would diversify the tribal economy as well as provide essential services that are not currently available to the community.

Little Bighorn Community College PAR \$26,250

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist the Little Bighorn Community College on the Crow Reservation with the completion of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) to develop a new skills training center, with the intent of enabling more tribal members to train and enter the workforce in high demand areas, such as welding and electrical professions.

Dry Fork Farms Management Plan \$11,000

Grant to the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation to assist with the completion of a revised and updated management plan for Dry Fork Farms, a tribal farming operation. Management alternatives will be explored as a part of this process, and employment alternatives associated with each management alternative will be addressed.

Columbia Falls Rail Park PER \$12,500

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), to promote the need for an industrial park with rail service. The industrial park would serve manufacturers that require in-house rail lines to their business facilities.

Strategic Business Plans \$20,000

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the completion of an economic development plan for Flathead County which will include strategies specific to each of the larger communities in the county.

Smurfit-Stone Northwestern Energy Biomass Study \$10,000

Grant to the Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist in the inclusion of the Smurfit-Stone facility in Frenchtown, MT when developing a regional model for sustainable biomass generation. NWE would work with the Montana Community Development Corp. to formulate a business plan to "re-purpose" the facility.

Smurfit-Stone Frenchtown Mill Phase III Financial Plan \$57,000

Grant to the Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist in the completion of a financial profile of the Frenchtown pulp mill site. This profile may be used to market the site to potential buyers, and will include operating expenses, labor needs and other relevant data. The report will also include a manufacturing and site assessment that covers existing infrastructure and potential capabilities at the site.

MT Food Bank's Endless Skies Processing Center Marketing Plan \$11,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist in the completion of a marketing plan for the Montana Food Bank's Endless Skies Food Processing Center in Deer Lodge, Montana. The ultimate goal of the project would be to provide infrastructure for a state-wide food processing network.

Stoltze/Algae Aqua-Culture Technologies Biorefinery Study \$11,000

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist in the completion of a biorefinery feasibility study, including the development by Algae Aqua-Culture Technologies of a model biorefinery that will consume waste wood from the Stoltze Mill in Columbia Falls to produce heat, electricity, biofuels and organic fertilizer.

Fort Peck Industrial Park Expansion Engineering Master Plan \$22,000

Grant to the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes to assist with the completion of an Engineering Master Plan for the Fort Peck Industrial Park Expansion Project in Poplar, MT, on the Fort Peck Reservation.

Laurel Movie Haus PAR \$10,000

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the reconstruction of a historic downtown business in Laurel. The plan would provide a roadmap to allow the current owners to complete the business reconstruction, considered a key development for the revitalization of the Main Street in downtown Laurel.

Montana Cattle Company Feasibility Study \$10,500

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a feasibility study for the meat processing facility in East Laurel that would provide the business with overall regional market identification for their product.

Montana Events Center Arena PAR/PER \$10,500

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Architectural and Engineering Report (PAR/PER) for the proposed Montana Events Center Arena at the I-90 Pryor Creek Interchange, just south of Billings. The project identified would fill a strategic niche in providing an arena for medium-size professional events and entertainment.

Anaconda Arbiter Area Sewer Hook-Up PER \$14,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the Arbiter Industrial Area in Anaconda. The project assistance would create plans for an 800 foot sewer line that would connect with the city sewer line, ultimately enabling a connection to the city sewer treatment plant.

NADC NTIA Inter-Tribal Telecommunication Consortium \$26,250

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist the Native American Development Corporation (NADC) with the development of a Telecommunications Consortium of Montana's Tribes in order to lay the groundwork to link all seven of Montana's Indian Reservations to the existing fiber-optic grid. .

NCHCI Medical Simulation Equipment Audit \$10,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of an equipment audit by the National Center for Health Care Informatics (NCHCI), based in Butte. The project would compile data on the quantity and types of equipment used in medical simulation training, what organizations are offering the training, the target audience to be trained, and the training capacity at each identified location.

Native American Trading Company / E3 Growhouse Study \$20,000

Grant to the Montana Business Assistance Connection to assist the Native American Trading Corporation dba Energy Exchange Enterprises (E3) of Helena, a Native American owned company, with the completion of a feasibility study for hydroculture food production in controlled environment hydroculture growhouses in the Helena Valley. The goal of the project would be to promote job creation, strengthen economic diversification and reestablish Montana as a viable fruits and vegetable net exporter.

Rocky Boy's Reservation Infrastructure Engineering Assessment \$27,500

Grant to the Chippewa Cree Tribe to assist with the completion of an engineering assessment of infrastructure damage due to the emergency flooding conditions on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

Copper Ridge Wind Study \$10,500

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist Pintler Power, LLC with the completion of two grid interconnection studies for the proposed 50 MW wind farm project in the mountains south of Anaconda, Montana.

Loan Restructure Assistance \$42,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of analysis and restructuring of existing loans for at least five (5) businesses that are recipients of various non-profit and State of Montana revolving loan funds.

Montana Aerospace Development Association Business Plan \$31,500

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a business plan for the Montana Aerospace Development Association (MADA) AeroTec project such as working with companies including SeaCast of Montana and others to develop an Aerospace cluster in Butte-Silver Bow, Montana.

Thermal Stud Engineering Study \$22,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of an engineering study for Thermal Stud, a rural start-up company with a patented product. The Thermal Stud company's product is a 2 x 6 insulated stud product manufactured by joining two small diameter pieces of processed wood using a proprietary foaming process, resulting in a building stud that insulates instead of leaking energy.

Seeley Lake Nordic Ski Lodge Feasibility Study \$16,500

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a Nordic Ski Lodge and Olympic Standard Training Facility feasibility study. The project seeks to allow the community provide an off-season draw to the community and capitalize on the tourism-driven markets and infrastructure already established in Seeley Lake, Montana.

Copper King Hotel Commercial Appraisal \$10,500

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a commercial appraisal for the Copper King Hotel in Butte, Montana. The goal of the new owners is to renovate and reopen the Copper King Hotel and Convention Center, providing Butte with over 100 full time jobs and reopening Southwest Montana's largest convention center.

MEDA Strategic Analysis of Montana's Regions \$26,250

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist the Montana Economic Developer's Association with the completion of a strategic analysis that would analyze the economic competitiveness of Montana's regions.

Qnuru Solar Street Light Design \$17,000

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a Phase I Engineering Report and a Phase II Product Prototype Development Report that can be used to retrofit street lights manufactured by AFFCO Inc. of Anaconda, MT

Superior Floodplain Study \$5,500

Grant to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a floodplain study for the town of Superior, Montana. The study would give a current and accurate portrayal of the floodplain area, which currently includes sections of the Superior Business District.

Hyperbaric Treatment Center Feasibility Study \$5,500

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a feasibility study for the proposed hyperbaric treatment and research center in Butte, Montana. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment (HBOT) is a treatment that administers 100% oxygen at higher than normal pressure that has been used in the treatment of traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

Butte Marketing Plan \$5,550

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a community marketing plan for Butte, Montana.

Satic Inc. Manufacturing Plan \$5,200

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a feasibility plan for purposed sales growth for Satic, Inc., in coordination with the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC).

Little Red Hills Consumer Testing Study \$5,500

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a consumer testing study, to be conducted at the Oregon State University, Sensory Sciences Laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon.

Pimlico Architectural Drawings \$10,250

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the completion of architectural drawings for the Pimlico Studios, Inc., to be located in the Missoula Development Park in Missoula, Montana.

Our Lady of the Rockies Tram & Trails Business Plan and PER \$15,750

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the completion of a business plan and preliminary engineering report (PER) for the Our Lady of the Rockies (LOR) Foundation Continental Tram and Trails Project located in Butte, Montana